



# THE JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

May 25, 2007, 1- 5 PM

## AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME and PRAYER
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
5. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS
6. CORRESPONDENCE
7. INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT Ms. Nzinga Walker
8. **OFFICERS' REPORTS:**  
President's Report Mrs. Sandra Carnegie-Douglas  
Treasurer's Report Ms. Nola Moore-Harris
9. AUDITOR'S REPORT Mrs. Donna Goldson, C.A.

### \* REFRESHMENT BREAK \*

10. GUEST SPEAKER Mrs. Delores Lawrence  
President & CEO NHI Inc.
11. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:  
Parliamentarians Ms. Erma Collins  
Chair, Nominating Committee Mr. Miah Bailey  
Positions up for Election:
  - 1) President
  - 2) Vice President Volunteer Services
  - 3) Executive Secretary
  - 4) Assistant Secretary
  - 5) Fundraising Chair
  - 6) Building Chair
  - 7) Youth Chair
  - 8) Education Chair
13. NEW BUSINESS
14. ADJOURNMENT

**Committee Reports will be interspersed throughout the meeting.**

THE JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD AT THE JCA CENTRE  
SUNDAY MAY 27, 2007

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Sandra Carnegie-Douglas, President, called the meeting to order at the hour of 2:05 p.m. The President advised the meeting that the Keynote Speaker has another engagement and therefore as soon as he arrived the meeting would break for the Presentation.

2. PRAYER

Ms. Amy Nelson lead the meeting in prayer.

3. OBSERVANCE OF A MOMENT'S SILENCE

The President requested the audience stand for the observance of a moment's silence in memory of members, family of members and/or friends of the association who had passed on during the past year.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

*It was moved by Mr. Sidney Weir and seconded by Ms. Avril James that the Agenda be approved.*

*Carried unanimously.*

5. CORRECTIONS TO THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Request that in the future acronyms such as BBPA and ACLC be spelled out.



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## 6. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

*It was moved by Ms. Pam Powell and seconded by Ms. Carmen Jens: That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on June 26, 2006 be confirmed:*

*Carried unanimously.*

Sylvanus Thompson introduced the Keynote Speaker

KEYNOTE SPEAKER – Toronto Police Services, Deputy Chief, Keith Forde made the following observations in his address to the membership

Deputy Forde greeted the members and thanked the president for the invitation to speak. He applauded the founders for their vision starting the organization and noted that to the community, the JCA is the representative Black Organization, in Ontario if not in Canada.

That position carries with it some responsibility therefore it is important that the JCA develop strong leadership to move the organization forward to the next 45 years.

The JCA must take strong action to ensure that it continues to recruit and train youth for leadership to help move the organization

It is important that youth respect the sacrifices and accomplishments of the older generation and look to them for advice and that the elders look to youth for honesty and truth

When choosing our leaders we must look for the combination of youth and experience

Must take concrete actions to get more people involved in the organization to keep it strong and vital

The JCA must do more to highlight its accomplishments and engage the community

It must communicate its mission and vision to the community so that the community can lend its support.

If not already done so, develop a Strategic Plan to outline where the organization is expected to be in the next 5-10 years

Employ a good strategy to communicate the plan to all stakeholders

There are never any shortage of critics in our community, and we must stop making it so easy to criticize without having alternate solutions.

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Change is never easy – good leadership is not about being liked or being popular it is about doing the right thing

We must not only look at the challenges for the organization but at the opportunities as well

To remain relevant, the JCA must continue to speak out strongly on such issues as parenting, crime and education, as well as other issues affecting the community, and on the good things as well.

It is important that the JCA continue to be a strong advocate and challenge things that are not good for the community.

The business meeting was reconvened.

### 7. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The status of the \$3M Apprenticeship Program. This amount was prematurely reported on by the previous Executive Director.

Status of Renovation Fund: Funds were allocated to renovate Kitchen, Lobby, Hallways and Boardroom as well as replaced air conditioning and doors.

*The Motion to accept the Minutes was carried unanimously.*

### 8. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS

The chair requested any new members, friends or first time visitors present to stand and introduce themselves to the audience. There were the following three (3) new members present: Laurel Service, Barbara Newin and Paulette Clarke who each received a warm welcome from the chair.



9. INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S (IED) REPORT

The Interim Executive Director gave a summary of the various programs and services as follows:

Settlement, Adaptation and Integration Program: This is an educational and supportive program for new immigrants from Africa and the Caribbean. The program served 800 clients from 22 countries during the fiscal year.

Leaders in Partnership Program (LIP)

This is a crime preventative program for at risk youth between the ages of 7 and 12 years old exhibiting social, emotional or behavioural difficulties. The Program served 90 youths during the fiscal year

Violence Against Women Program (VAW)

This program responds to women and children who have survived domestic violence and sexual abuse. Clients are drawn from the Caribbean and African communities. The program served 372 women during the past fiscal year.

The Parenting Program

This program targets parents and caregivers of children considered to be at risk and for the most part referred to JCA by Children's Aid and the school system and including walk-ins. The program offers counselling and information to parents with children birth to 12 years old.

Transition Program (K-Club)

This transitional program for at risk youth 16-24 years of age focuses on the successful re-integration of young offenders with their families and their communities. The program served 461 youth during the fiscal year.

Opportunity Plus Program

The program provides job search assistance to unemployed workers aged 45 and over to re-enter the workforce. The program served 204 clients during the fiscal year.

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### Youth Outreach Worker Program (YOW)

The Ministry appointed the JCA as the lead agency for this new program in 2006. In collaboration with local communities facilitate opportunities to introduce positive options to marginalized youth aged 12-21. The program has served over 1000 youth since its inception in 2006.

### Volunteer Program

Recruits volunteers for the organization and assists with the coordination of the Youth and Seniors Programs, providing administrative support when required.

### The Seniors Program

The Caribbean Canadian Seniors group within the JCA meets twice weekly and is actively engaged in various activities including field trips, physical exercises and wellness programs. In addition there are regular workshops and seminars on subjects of interest to seniors.

*Motion to accept the Interim Executive Director's Report moved by Ms Edna Smith-Bowes, seconded by Ms. Beryl Nugent, none opposed motion carried.*

*All in favour of adopting the Interim Executive Director's report, none opposed, carried unanimously.*

## OFFICER'S REPORT

### 10. PRESIDENT

The President reported on the activities of the Jamaican Canada Association (JCA) for the 2006-2007 fiscal year, a year punctuated with successes, challenges and optimism.

We have continued and are continuing on the path of change, transformation and growth to build and strengthen the Association's operations. The Board has set as a priority, its intentions to transform the organization and maintain our commitment to the continued delivery of services and programs to our members and community.



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In this past year, the JCA was successful in its bid to obtain the role of lead agency in the delivery of the new Youth Outreach Worker Program initiative established by the Ontario Government.

We have also demonstrated growth and success in other areas such as: Our Saturday Morning Tutorial Program which continues to grow in the participation rate both from students and tutors.

Our Scholarship Program continues to experience a healthy growth in participation by students as well as in the recruitment of new sponsors.

We continue to sponsor activities to promote the cultural aspects of the Jamaican, Caribbean and African Canadian community, specifically through the Annual Independence/Anniversary Gala and the Boonoonoonos, while aiming to improve the overall presentation of the events.

We have continued to engage with community partners, public institutions, funders with various other activities and agendas within the Jamaican, Caribbean and African Canadian communities, but also within the broader Canadian context.

Several new staff members joined the JCA staff team, including the Interim Executive Director, Nzinga Walker.

In the area of governance, the task force established to review the constitution, completed its work and the revised constitution was presented to and adopted by the JCA membership. Additionally, a finance committee was established.

One of our toughest challenges this year has been in the area of fundraising. However, a fundraiser is now on board.

In the broader objective, to transform and move the Association forward, the Board with the support of the membership decided in the past year to undertake an organizational review of the Association.

The review is necessary because of the ongoing challenges in the organization

The infrastructure not adequately moving with the growth

We have to decide what to keep, what to change if we want to remain strong and dynamic

The building is no longer a novelty other organizations are also trying to acquire their own building and perhaps some already have

We have an aging membership

We need more skilled people to do the work

We need to have trained leadership ready to take over

The terms of a number of board members have expired and the Association has benefited from the energies, knowledge, time and resources they brought with them. We thank all of them for their contributions to the Association and look forward to working with all former board members.

This year we celebrate The JCA's forty-fifth anniversary. It is against this backdrop of forty-five years of existence that we are poised with eager anticipation to leverage our best effort, collectively and individually, to augment the work of the founders and set the Association on a path of renewed growth and vigour for the next forty-five years!

Our thanks to Joe Boateng for his time stepping into and holding the Interim Executive Director's position until the vacancy was filled.

***Motion moved by Bruce McDonald to adopt the President's Report, seconded by Pam Reynolds, none opposed motion carried.***

## **11. TREASURER**

The treasurer circulated and presented the Financial Statements for the fiscal year 2006 -2007.

Donna Goldson, CA was appointed by the Membership of the Association to perform an independent audit of the Association's financial statements at the 2005-2006 Annual General meeting.



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The treasurer stated that as she was approaching the end of her term she would like to express her sincere gratitude to the members for their support.

*Motion moved by Cyndi Anderson to adopt the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Herman Stewart, none opposed, carried.*

The Auditor presented her draft report and reported that not all the documentation had been completed and so could not present a Final Audit Report for the meeting.

### Questions/Comments/Observations:

When can final report be expected from the Auditor and will it be signed

Notes should be included on the financial statements to assist with better understanding the statements

Building Rental Income still down – This matter is on the Board's agenda as a priority; some marketing and outreach activities will be necessary to bring rental to full capacity. The IED, Facilities Manager and the Building Committee will be meeting to discuss the matter and move ahead.

Membership dues are still down

*Motion by Cyndi Anderson to approve Donna Goldson as the Auditor, seconded by Carmen Jens, none opposed, carried.*

## 12. VICE PRESIDENT

The Vice President reported that she carried out the responsibilities of the position as well as other duties and responsibilities delegated by the Board as follows:

- Participated with other community groups in an event "Remembering Miss Lou"
- Participated on panel at open forum "Your Issues Live" with Michael Sharpe of TV Jamaica.
- Participated on Community Welcome Committee planning the reception and brought message from the President, Board,

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Staff and Membership in welcoming her Excellency Evadne Coye Jamaica's New High Commissioner to Canada.

Other involvements included completing a Privacy Policy as well as reviewed and revised the Human Resource Manual with the assistance of other Board members; also worked with the Building Chair to develop a Rental Policy.

The Vice President stated that she would not be seeking re-election and expressed sincere gratitude to the membership for their support and keeping The JCA as one of the great beacons of the community.

*Motion moved by Dr. Vincent Conville to adopt the Vice President's Report, seconded Raphaelita Walker, none opposed, carried.*

### 13. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:

The positions to be filled for the ensuing year are as follows:

- a. Executive Vice President
- b. Vice President - 1 year
- c. Treasurer
- d. Chair, Membership Committee
- e. Chair, Building Committee - 1 year
- f. Chair, Women's Committee
- g. Chair, Public Relations
- h. Chair, Youth Affairs Committee
- i. Assistant Secretary

The President vacated the chair and Ms Erma Collins, the Parliamentarian for the Election, assumed the chair for the election of officers and directors.



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At the conclusion of the elections the following were elected.

- |    |                          |                   |
|----|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1) | Executive Vice President | Audrey Campbell   |
| 2) | Vice President           | Billroy Powell    |
| 3) | Treasurer                | Nola Moore-Harris |
| 4) | Assistant Secretary      | Laurel Service    |
| 5) | Building Chair           | Keith Haye        |
| 6) | Membership Chair         | Anton Squire      |
| 7) | Women's Committee        | Charmaine Sewell  |
| 8) | Youth Affairs Committee  | Dwayne Osbourne   |
| 9) | Public Relations         | Rosemarie Powell  |

Motion moved by Herman Stewart to close nomination, seconded by Pam Reynolds, none opposed, carried.

Motion moved by Alvin Knight and seconded by Sidney Weir to destroy the ballots, none opposed, carried.

With respect to the nomination of Nola Moore-Harris as Treasurer, there was some discussion as her eligibility because of her membership status.

Motion moved by Billroy Powell seconded by Pam Reynolds to accept the nomination of Nola Moore-Harris for the position of Treasurer, carried.

### 14. ELECTION OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

This was deferred to the next Quarterly Meeting in August.

### 15. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

After the election process, committee chairs presented brief highlights of the committee's activities over the past year (See Annual Report 2006-2007 for detailed reports).

**EDUCATION AND CULTURAL COMMITTEE**

The Education Committee enjoyed another successful year and was able to maintain all its standing activities and implemented new ones in spite of its small but very committed number of regular members. All the activities included in the 2006/2007 Work Plan were completed with the exception of the Forum on Black Focus Schools which we hope to get on the agenda early in this fiscal year.

**Saturday Morning Tutorial Program (SMTP)**

This program is offered on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm on Saturdays during the school year for students from Grades 1 – 12, in need of support for English Language and Mathematics skills. Kellie Spence is the Program Coordinator who supervises a committed group of volunteer tutors.

The proposal for funding the Saturday Morning Tutorial Program submitted jointly with CABC to the Trillium Foundation was not approved.

**York West (JCA) 2006/2007 Spelling Bee**

The JCA partnered with Spelling Bee of Canada for the third year to produce the North York West (JCA) Chapter of the Competition. Approximately 80 students participated in the competition and JCA President Sandra Carnegie-Douglas was the Guest Speaker at the event.

***Taste of the Caribbean and Africa Food Expo 2007***

Following on the success of the 2006 Health Fair the JCA was invited to partner with the Caribbean Diabetes Association, the Black Health Alliance, Toronto Public Health and other organizations in hosting a Caribbean/African Food Expo. as a Black History Month activity. Over 400 persons attended throughout the day.



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### Black History Month

The JCA's Annual Black History Month with the schools took place on February 21, 2007. The Theme was *From Slavery to Freedom* and over 400 students from approximately 12 schools participated. The Guest Speaker was Kofi Hope founder of Black Youth Coalition Against Violence. There were several performances from various schools and the MC was Gerry Thompson.

There were presentations/exhibits by JCA President Sandra Carnegie-Douglas, Sgt. Erwin Mahilum of the Canadian Armed Forces, Addiction Therapist Donna Alexander from CAMH, Jamaica Information Service and The Canadian Race Relations Foundation.

### Black Focus Schools

A sub-committee was established to develop an official JCA position on Black Focus Schools. The potential participants included Professor Dei from Prof. George Dei of OISE and Vernon Farrell, a retired principal. Efforts will continue to ensure that this event takes place.

### JCA Scholarship and Awards Program

The 2006 Scholarship Awards took place in September rather than November to ensure compliance with the United Way fundraising black-out period. Eighteen (18) scholarships with an approximate value of over \$20, 000 were presented.

Efforts are being made to secure the Governor General as the Guest Speaker at the 2007 Awards on September 15th. The 2007 Scholarships and Bursaries to be awarded with two new sponsors as follows: Consul General Anne Marie Bonner (\$1000), two Jamaica National Building Society Scholarships (\$1000 each)

### 2006 Health Fair

The Education Committee and the Women's Committee jointly hosted the Annual Health Fair in October 2006. Various individuals and

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organizations participated in the event and approximately 400 persons attended the Fair.

Marcus Garvey Resource Center (Library)

A volunteer librarian is currently assisting with the cataloguing of the books and setting up of electronic resources.

*Motion moved by Raphaelita Walker to adopt the Education Committee's Report, seconded by Linda Gray, none opposed, carried.*

### **BUILDING COMMITTEE**

A first draft of the Rental Policy has been submitted to the Board for comments and suggestions.

As a result of new staff hires, there were some relocations as space became an issue.

The Work-day on January 20, 2007 was planned for general cleanup of waste and unwanted materials including obsolete machinery and equipment. With the assistance of the few people who turned up most of these tasks were accomplished.

Committee members continue to be of great assistance in the general upkeep of the building and volunteer at functions. During the year we welcomed three new members to the Committee.

We implore all members of our community to take care of the facility as this building should be a source of pride for all of us.

During the year the following projects were completed:

- New water heater leased and installed in Hall 1.
- New water heater installed at Kwik Kopy.
- New delivery door installed in Main Kitchen.
- Catch basin at south east end of property repaired and painted.
- New A/C units installed to serve Offices and surrounding areas.



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- Install additional double electrical receptacle in Facilities Manager's Office.
- Sound system speakers were returned to proper working condition. Plans for further upgrade in the New Year.
- Stage lighting refurbished and now in proper working condition. More upgrade needed in New Year.
- Pool table and juke box in Members' Lounge now in working condition.

### **Security Cameras**

The issue of security has been reviewed. However because cost was an issue the matter was placed on hold until the new fiscal year.

### **Relocation of Server**

The server relocation is partially complete. This issue will be revisited at the beginning of the new fiscal year.

*Motion moved by Keith Haye to adopt the Building Committee's Report, seconded by Linda Gray, none opposed, carried.*

### **Questions/Comments/Observations**

*Questions as to why the Jamaica Governor General's Reception was held here at the Centre*

*There have been comments that JCA is too expensive; have we done a comparison with other halls for example at Highgate or Markham etc.*

*The broken chairs must be repaired or removed*

All in favour of accepting the Building Committee's Report, carried.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

PR Committee's Goals as outlined in the Workplan are:

1. To Increase and strengthen JCA's visibility & impact Socially
2. To Increase and strengthen JCA's visibility & Impact – Economically

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### 3. To Increase and strengthen JCA's visibility & Impact – Politically

To Enhance and increase JCA Visibility - On – Line and Print, website was re-designed and continues to be a technological tool to be used to engage the membership, community and supporters. The work is continuous and the committee is seeking volunteers with website background to assist with the work.

The JCA Printed Material will be re-designed to complement other communication tools such as the official website and also showcase a consistent, fresh and vibrant JCA brand. The completion of this task is scheduled for the next quarter.

### **The Editorial Board**

The Editorial Board was established to enhance the quality of the JCA's primary publication tool – In Focus Newsletter. The current committee consists of individual's with background in editing, writing, and or communications expertise as well as the President and the Executive Secretary.

### **To Showcase & Highlight JCA**

In an effort to keep our members and the community engaged all members, new and inactive, will be invited to the Open Houses to be held each Spring and Fall. This is aimed at providing an avenue for dialogue, networking, and informational updates regarding the achievements, gains and direction of the Association.

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Public Relations Campaign July - September 2007.**

Through public service announcements, print and on-air interviews specifically aimed at highlighting JCA's history, founders, achievements, and successes.

**The Open House Friday May 25, 2007** Primarily to enhance the visibility to the JCA, its programs, services and its work in the community and also as part of the celebration of the organization's 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



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**Jamaica Diaspora Conference** – Unleashing the Potential, Kingston, Jamaica. The Public Relations Chair was part of the JCA delegation, along with the President and Youth Chair at the Jamaica Diaspora Conference.

**Upcoming Involvement** – As a follow up to the conference there will be a Youth Conference entitled, "Future Leadership", sponsored by the Jamaican Diaspora Canada Foundation, special guest His Excellency Professor Kenneth Hall and Her Excellency Mrs. Hall. The event will be held on June 8, 2007 for youth between the ages of 18-30 years.

**Location:** Rivaltime Tabernacle, 9:00am - 4:00pm.

The Chair reported that even with all that has been accomplished there is still more work to be done and thanked the team for their support and commitment to the work furthering the cause to build better communities and change lives.

The committee is especially pleased with the gains and accomplishments they were able to achieve and extend congratulations and thanks to all staff, members and community, for the PR support provided during the year through JCA sponsored events. The Chair also expressed his sincere appreciation and praise to committee members as well as to the President and the Board of Directors for the support provided to the committee.

*Motion moved by Leo Campbell to adopt the Public Relations Committee Report, seconded by Alvin Knight, none opposed, carried.*

### **YOUTH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (YAC)**

During the past year, the committee has been working towards revamping the current structure to incorporate more opportunities for youth and young adults.

In June 2006, the chair and volunteer coordinator held an information session for high school students, and young adults to discuss the opportunities for the committee to move forward.

Outcomes from presentation:

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- Mandate continues to be U.P.L.I.F.T 'Unified People Learning and Improving for Tomorrow'
- The committee will function under two umbrellas
  - Inspired Youth (ages 16-21 yrs)
  - Young Leaders In Motion (over 21 yrs)
- Our Focus: Total Development through Mentorship

A visionary framework has been developed to outline the potential offerings for those who volunteer/participate and are members of the committee.

### Inspired Youth (ages 16-21yrs)

- Mentor to assist youth educationally, socially, economically, politically and professionally
- Opportunity to participate in community wide initiatives
- Monthly informative workshops and/or activities
- Access to city wide resources
- Access to scholarships
- Opportunity to display skills and interests
- Accumulate volunteers hours required for graduation
- Become leaders in your community

### Young Leaders In Motion (over 21yrs)

- Become a Mentor for Inspired Youth
- Great networking opportunities w/other organizations
- Bi-monthly workshops and/or activities
- Chief organizers
  - Annual High School Career Expo
  - Annual Young Professional Gala
- Opportunity to display skills and interests
- Positively impact youth in the community

The committee is preparing to launch a JCA mentorship program. A comprehensive document outlining the policies and procedures of the Mentorship program has been developed. Youth need to have greater representation in various parts of the organization.

## **INVOLVEMENTS**



- Chair attended Black Business and Professional Association workshop sessions
- Chair participated on the interview panel for Social Service area staffing

#### KEY FOCUS

- Enhance the Youth Committee framework
  - increase membership and involvement
  - increase community visibility
- Launch the JCA Youth Committee Mentorship Program
  - develop promotion/communication strategy
  - commence enrolment
  - obtain potential funding/support

The youth committee organized a benefit on Saturday, January 27, 2007 at the JCA the event marketed to the young professional singles in the GTA titled "Young Professional Singles Benefit."

The evening also provided a great opportunity for attendees to find out how to become more involved in their community and the JCA.

However because of adverse weather conditions our estimated attendance and the subsequent returns were not realized.

**Workshops/Presentations:** November 28<sup>th</sup> 2006, the YAC committee will be hosting bi-monthly evening workshops/presentations on a variety of topics to further engage the community in the organization. The topic for our 1<sup>st</sup> session will be on Volunteerism. The Honourable Michael Colle, Provincial Minister responsible for immigration and volunteerism, was our honoured Keynote Speaker at the event.

*Motion by LaToya McPherson to adopt the Youth Affairs Committee Report seconded by Edgar Campbell; none opposed, motion carried.*

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### **WOMEN'S COMMITTEE**

#### Activities

The Committee held a roundtable discussion on the topic of Power.

The Women's Committee and the Educational Committee once again hosted the Annual Health Fair.

In March the committee hosted International Women's Day along with our Women Recognizing Women program. In this program the volunteer contribution of the women of JCA was recognized. The committee recognized six women with certificates for their volunteerism.

This event was emceed by Marcia Williams and a stimulating keynote speech was delivered by Marie Clarke Walker.

The Committee also hosted a film presentation and discussion. The chosen movie was "Water" which engendered an engaging and stimulating dialogue about gender roles, relationships and culture.

The women also hosted a baby shower prior to the showing of the movie. The collected items were donated to York Community

Services. A lending library was started as result of the books that were donated from this endeavor. The shower will become an annual event.

The committee members continue to support a foster child in Africa. Members of the committee continue to be involved in all aspects of the JCA, volunteering on many different committees, internally and externally.

***Motion by Camille Hannays-King to adopt the Women's Committee Report seconded by Pam Powell, none opposed, motion carried.***

### **MEMBERSHIP SERVICES**

The past year was very challenging for the Association and membership became a high priority. The committee accomplished some tasks but acknowledges that there is still much to be done. It

#### INVOLVEMENTS



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was a year of highs and lows where we lost some very important members of the Association and the Community.

**We received a total of 51 new members during the past year.**

We lost the following members:

Mr. Martin Barrett

Ms. Theodora Briscoe

Mr. Causwell Chung

Mr. Clarence Hewitt

Mr. Ronald Robinson

Ms. Pernelle Samuels

**Condolences were sent out to the following members who lost loved ones:**

Mr. Winston Brown (cousin)

Ms. Rose Bryan (mother)

Mrs. Mary Anne Chambers (mother)

Ms. Carolyn Goulbourne -Warren (aunt)

Mr. Eric Malcolm (sister)

Mr. Desmond Marrett (sister)

Mrs. and Mr. Joyce and Roy Rainford (brothers)

Mr. & Mrs. Pansy and Roy Stewart (mother)

Ms. Barbara Thomas (brothers)

The Membership and the Community also mourned the loss of:

The Honourable Louise Bennett-Coverley and Ms. Sherona Hall

The Membership Committee started efforts to outreach to inactive members. In this past year we recruited 51 new members.

### **Volunteer Appreciation**

The Volunteer Appreciation held on July 6, 2006 recognized 51 volunteers. All recipients received a Certificate and a scroll from the Hon. Mario Sergio, M.P.P. for York West, and recognition from the Hon. Judy Sgro, M.P. for York West.

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### **Annual Picnic:**

The Annual Picnic took place at the Boyd's Conservations Park, in Woodbrige on Sunday, July 9, 2006 with lower than expected participation.

This year the picnic will be on Sunday July 15, at the Queenston Heights Park, Niagara. The cost for the bus return is \$ 25.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children 12 years and under.

### **The Flag Raising Ceremony**

The Flag Raising Ceremony was on Saturday, August 05, 2006 at Nathan Phillip Square, Toronto.

This year the Ceremony will be on Sunday, August 5, at 1.p.m.

### **AWARDS**

The following Awards were presented at the Independence Gala on Saturday, August 19, 2006:

#### **COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS**

- Share Newspaper
- Pride Newspaper
- Caribbean Camera
- Canada Extra, Publications of the Gleaner Co.

#### **25 YEAR AWARDS**

- Ms Norma Clarke
- Mr. Ruel Grey
- Ms. Eugenia Pearson
- Mrs. Marblet James
- Mr. and Barry Johnson
- Mrs. Hermine Johnson

#### **PRESIDENT'S AWARD**

- Ms. Audrey Campbell ✓

#### **LIFETIME AWARD**

- Ms. Kamala-Jean Gopie ✓



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### **Seniors Brunch**

We recognized our seniors at the Annual Seniors Brunch on Sunday September 17, 2006. The event was well attended with over 200 seniors and guests. The Guest Speaker for the afternoon was the Hon. Judy Sgro, M.P., for York West. The Caribbean Seniors Group used the opportunity to pay a special tribute to Ms. Amy Nelson. The two Keynote Speakers were Mr. Roy Williams and Ms. Valerie Steele.

### **Christmas Party**

The Annual Children's Christmas Party was a great success with over 400 children in attendance some with parents.

Thanks to Zenover Brown who kept them entertained with different games. We received some monetary and in-kind donations. Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Claus, also known as Gifford and Raphaelita Walker.

The Chair expressed gratitude to the members of the Committee who continue to work to support the goals of the Association. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

***Motion by Anton Squire to adopt the Membership Committee Report seconded by Pam Reynolds, none opposed, motion carried.***

### **FUNDRAISING REPORT**

Overall for this fiscal year, the fundraising initiatives were below expectations, for example, although the Boonoonoonoos attendance seemed significant there were challenges that kept it from being more successful.

The fundraising committee will be preparing a Workplan for the 2007-2008 fiscal year and put in place a plan of action to increase our donor base.

The JCA embarked on a Direct Mail campaign; many of you may have received your packages in the mail, we hope that you have already either sent in your donation or about to do so.

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We need to put in place a contingency plan in the event of the loss or reduction of any support we now receive from funders.

Through all these challenges the committee continues to have many dedicated volunteers who work hard to raise money through special events and campaigns and this past year we raised a total of \$34,3867.00 through several fundraising initiatives.

To build a more sustainable fundraising program for The JCA, a grant from the Trillium Foundation made it possible to hire a professional fundraiser, Jane Rogers. It is anticipated that Jane will work with staff and volunteers to develop long-term fundraising programs so that The JCA can continue its legacy of building strong, healthy families and communities.

The committee will be proceeding with a Raffle or Cruise in 2007/2008 and Mr. Alton Telfer will be the lead on this project. It is anticipated that the draw will take place at a Spring Dance in 2008.

For the fiscal year 2007-2008 the committee proposes to recruit 10 new members. The committee is also seeking membership support for the **PENNY DRIVE** and appealed to members to bring their pennies when coming to the JCA.

***Motion moved by Edna Smith-Bowes for adoption of the Fundraising Committee Report seconded by David Mitchell, none opposed, motion carried.***

Questions/Comments/Observations:

An update on the Walkathon - over \$12K has been collected to date.

### **LIFETIME AWARD**

- Ms. Kamala-Jean Gopie ✓



## Minutes of The Annual General Meeting, May 27, 2007

**All in favour of accepting the Fundraising Committee Report, none opposed, carried.**

### 18. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 6.05 p.m.

May 2008

### REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the slate of candidates for election.

The slate presented represents the result of our search.

Our search did not result in any interests for the following positions and as such we are happy to return these incumbents unopposed and by acclamation, duly elected:

Executive Secretary

Norma Brown-Laro (Incumbent)

Education Chair

Sylvanus Thompson (Incumbent)

Our thanks to them; and good luck to the other candidates vying for positions and are being challenged.

Our thanks and appreciation to all incumbents who for whatever reason find it necessary to step down from the Board at this time.

Submitted on behalf of the committee:

The Nominating Committee members are:

Mich Bailey, Chair

Byron Carter

Dr. Vincent Cornille

Emica Graham

Bruce McDonald

Amy Nelson

Pauline Piggott

Leon Sutherland





**TO: THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**FROM: THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors expresses sincere thanks and appreciation to the members of the Nominating Committee for the work that was put into the process to be able to present us with a state of candidates for this year's election.

We know the task was challenging and we truly appreciate your efforts.

It is now up to you, the members and we hope you will exercise sound judgment when selecting the candidates to represent you and provide the strong leadership that the organization will require in the months ahead.

May 2008

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#### REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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Education Chair

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Sylvanus Thompson (incumbent)

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Submitted on behalf of the committee.

The Nominating Committee members are:

Miah Bailey, Chair  
Byron Carter  
Dr. Vincent Conville  
Eunice Graham

Bruce McDonald  
Amy Nelson  
Pauline Piggott  
Leon Sutherland

## CANDIDATES' PROFILES

### 2008 ELECTION

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of candidates for the positions that are open this year:

- |                                      |                            |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. President                         | 2 year term (no incumbent) |
| 2. Vice President Volunteer Services | 2 year term (no incumbent) |
| 3. Education Chair                   | 2 year term (incumbent)    |
| 4. Building Chair                    | 2 year term (incumbent)    |
| 5. Fundraising Chair                 | 2 year term (no incumbent) |
| 6. Executive Secretary               | 2 year term (incumbent)    |
| 7. Youth Chair                       | 2 year term (no incumbent) |
| 8. Assistant Secretary               | 1 year term (no incumbent) |

#### HERMAN STEWART For President

Herman has been a JCA member over thirty years and has provided strong leadership for the organization during those periods.

Herman has served as President, Vice President, and at various times chaired every JCA Committee except the Social Committee

Herman is a Mediator with the Ministry of Labour.

#### SOLOMON SPENCER – For Vice President Volunteer Services

Solomon has been a JCA member since 1997 and has provided assistance at various times in an advisory capacity.

Over the years, Solomon has sponsored many seniors for the Annual Seniors Appreciation Dinner

Solomon works as a Provincial Specialist with the Ministry of Labour

Solomon volunteers with the Toronto Board of Health on the Advisory Board, Davenport-Perth Community Centre, West Toronto Support Service and Black Secretariat, among others.

Solomon would like to have an opportunity to assist the JCA in meeting its goals and objectives for the Jamaican-Canadian Community.



BILLROY POWELL  
For Vice President Volunteer Services

Billroy has worked in the community for over 12 years, eight of which was at the JCA. While employed at the JCA Billroy volunteered with the Membership Committee and the Education Committee and it was during his stint as a volunteer that he initiated the JCA Saturday Morning Tutoring Program.

Billroy has volunteered with a number of community organizations/committees including Toronto Drug Court, The Multicultural Coalition for Access to Family Service and Humber Regional Hospital Committee for Community Care.

SYLVANUS THOMPSON (incumbent)  
For Education Chair

Sylvanus is the recipient of several awards including Ontario Government Scholarship for academic achievement and the Ontario Food Protection Association Award for outstanding contribution to food safety and also past recipient of the JCA President's Award.

Sylvanus is an active member with various professional organizations.

Past community and volunteer experience include President of the Jamaican Association of Public Health Inspectors; Vice President of St. James Cricket Association; President Rosemount Gardens Citizens Association; and Public Relations Officer.

Sylvanus is the current chair of the JCA Education and Cultural Committee

Sylvanus is Quality Assurance Manager for Toronto Public Health's Healthy Environments Program.

REV. RICHARD S. MITCHELL  
For Education Chair

Rev. Mitchell is a Director of Friends For Life Outreach Ministry. Rev. Mitchell has been a JCA member since 2007.

His ministry provides Family Counselling; Prison Chaplain; Youth / Peer Counselling; Youth/Parent Counselling and Mediation Services.

OWEN DUNBAR  
For Building Chair

Owen has been a member of the JCA since 1997 and an active member on the Building Committee for several years.

Owen is also a past member of the Membership Committee

Owen's says he volunteers because he **"wants to give back to his community"** and feels that this is the right place and the time to add his voice to the leadership team going forward. Owen brings a wealth of skills and experience to the position and believes that he can achieve his goal by ensuring that the JCA building remains the pride of the community.

KEITH HAYE (incumbent)  
For Building Chair

Keith hails from the garden parish of St Ann in Jamaica and has worked as an accountant for several years.

Keith's volunteer experience is as follows:

Past Member of the Membership Committee

First Vice-President of the Alliance of Jamaican Alumni Association

President of Ferncourt Alumni Association - Toronto.

Keith is the current chair of the JCA Building Committee

ROSEMARIE BRYAN  
For Fundraising Chair

Rosemarie has volunteered in various organizations such as positions such as: Church Coordinator, Operation H.O.P.E. and Rexdale Women's Centre, among others Rosemarie brings with her a wealth of experiences.

Currently Rosemarie is the Founder of Operation H.O.P.E. they have delivered over 4000 toys to the Island of Jamaica to children living in Shelters among other projects.

NORMA BROWN-LARRO (incumbent)  
for Executive Secretary

Norma has been an active JCA supporter/member for over 25 years. Norma possesses a good understanding of non-profit organizations and Board Governance and understands the responsibilities and time commitment of the position.

Norma has served on several JCA committees, as well as on other community Boards



# THE JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

KELLIE SPENCE  
For Assistant Secretary

Kellie has been a JCA Member since 2006 and a coordinator for the Saturday Morning Tutorial Program since 2007.

Kellie has also developed a keen interest in the areas of landscape architecture and environmental design and is a Planning Assistant for the City of Toronto.

### 3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

### 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

### 5. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS

### 6. CORRESPONDENCE

### 7. INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT Mrs. Nanya Walker

### 8. OFFICERS' REPORTS:

President's Report

Mrs. Sandra Carnegie-Douglas

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Ross Moore Harris

### 9. AUDITOR'S REPORT:

Mrs. Donna Golden, C.A.

## \* REFRESHMENT BREAK \*

### 10. GUEST SPEAKER

Mrs. Debbie Lawrence  
President & CEO of JNC

### 11. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:

Barbados-Jamaica

Mr. Ernie Collins

Chair, Nominating Committee

Mr. Mich Bailey

Positions up for Election:

- 1) President
- 2) Vice President Volunteer Services
- 3) Executive Secretary
- 4) Assistant Secretary
- 5) Fundraising Chair
- 6) Building Chair
- 7) Youth Chair
- 8) Education Chair

### 12. NEW BUSINESS

### 13. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Reports will be interspersed throughout the meeting.

OWEN DUNBAR  
For Building Chair

Owen has been a member of the JCA since 2005 and has been active in the Building Committee for several years. Owen has been a JCA Member since 2005 and has been active in the Building Committee for several years.

Owen's says he volunteers because he "wants to give back to his community" and that this is the best way to do it. Owen has been a JCA Member since 2005 and has been active in the Building Committee for several years.

KEITH HAYE (incumbent)  
For Building Chair

Keith hails from the garden parish of St Ann in Jamaica and has worked as an accountant for several years.

Keith's volunteer experience is as follows:

Past Member of the Mentorship Committee

First Vice-President of the Alliance of Jamaican Alumni Association

President of Fairport Alumni Association - Toronto

Keith is the current chair of the JCA Building Committee

ROSEMARIE BRYAN  
For Fundraising Chair

Rosemarie has volunteered in various organizations such as Church Coordinator, Operation H.O.P.E. and Rexdale Women's Centre, among others. Rosemarie brings with her a wealth of experience.

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